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## Harvesting Kansas History: K-State Libraries digitize rural life publications through Project Ceres

Kansas State University Libraries

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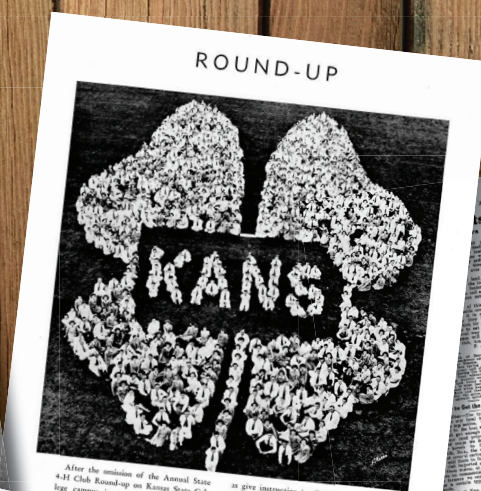
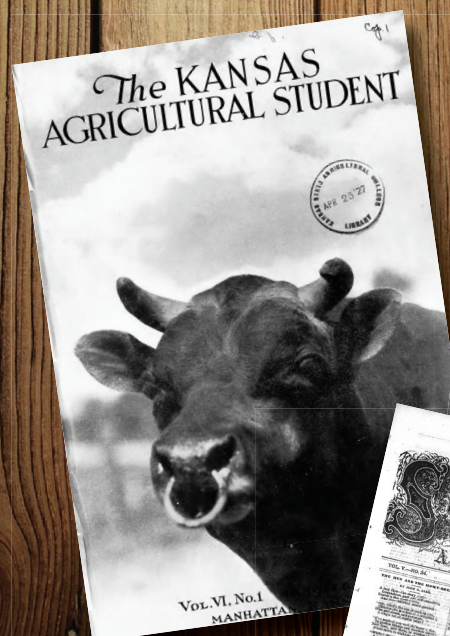
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# HARVESTING KANSAS HISTORY





# K-State Libraries digitize rural life publications through Project Ceres

Have you ever cleaned out a shed, attic or basement and come across a stack of old magazines? Mildewed and decayed, they're usually headed straight for the garbage bin. So why did a team of K-State librarians work to make Kansas agricultural publications—the kind you might find in your grandfather's barn—available online?

In one word: Preservation. By preserving our past, we can remember where we've been and how we have progressed—or not!

For example, a scan through an 1869 issue of "Kansas Farmer" reminds us that drought, crop prices and contentious politics are perennial topics of concern. On the other hand, a comparison of a 1929 issue of "Kansas Future Farmer" with an issue from 1982 reveals shifting gender expectations, advances in farm technology and radical changes to the state's economy.

"These articles and ads are cultural artifacts representing lived Kansas experiences from the 19th and 20th centuries," Livia Olsen, academic services librarian, said. "They are

valuable primary sources and snapshots of rural life for researchers of agriculture, advertising, geography, history, cookery and many more fields."

**"THE WORK OUR LIBRARIANS HAVE DONE WILL ENSURE THAT STUDENTS, HISTORIANS AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCHERS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO GENERATIONS OF FARMING KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE. THE ONLINE COLLECTION IS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE TO SEARCH."**

— MICHELLE TURVEY-WELCH,  
HEAD OF METADATA, PRESERVATION  
AND DIGITAL INITIATIVES

Thanks to 21st-century technology, K-State librarians have digitized thousands of pages of rural life publications. The preservation effort was made possible through financial support from three Project Ceres grants. Additionally, the publication "Grass and Grain" was still under copyright, but the original publisher generously granted the Libraries permission to digitize the materials.

Project Ceres was created by the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN), the Agriculture Network Information Collaborative (AgNIC) and the Center for Research Libraries. Their grants support preservation

reports, 4-H club programs, recipes, land conservation methods and home remedies for everything from lumbago to liver complaints.

"The work our librarians have done will ensure that students, historians and agricultural researchers will have access to generations of farming knowledge and culture," said Michelle Turvey-Welch, head of metadata, preservation and digital initiatives. "The online collection is available for anyone to search."

The librarians who completed the project include Olsen and Turvey-Welch, along with Amanda Harlan, metadata librarian, and Linda Marston, digital collections coordinator. Several former faculty members also contributed, including Diana Farmer, Beth Turtle and Allison Ringness.

KANSAS AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE PUBLICATIONS 1869-1988	
Grass and Grain	1967-72
Kansas 4-H Journal	1957-88
Kansas Agricultural Student	1921-68
Kansas Farmer	1869-1954
Kansas Future Farmer	1929-82
Kansas Union Farmer	1922-45
Practical Cookery and the Etiquette and Service of the Table	1916 and 1947
Spirit of Kansas	1872-92
Who's Who	1927-57



Publications are available online at  
[lib.k-state.edu/digital-collections](http://lib.k-state.edu/digital-collections).